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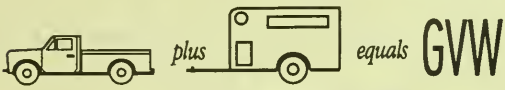
Do You Own A Pickup & Tow A Trailer?

If You Do, The Way You License Your Vehicle Is About To Change.

House Bill 651 eliminated the gross vehicle weight (GVW) fees on all trailers—like utility trailers, horse trailers and boat trailers. Your trailer must still be licensed and will be assessed property tax and other fees, but starting January 1, the GVW fees you used to pay on your trailer will now be part of the weight fees on the pickup.

Here's How It Works

1/2 ton pickup with camper	Boat trailer	Combined GVW on pickup
4,500 lb. GVW	3,500 lb. GVW	8,000 lb.



1 ton pickup	Horse trailer	Combined GVW on pickup
6,500 lb. GVW	12,000 lb. GVW	18,500 lb.

1 ton pickup	Camper trailer	Combined GVW on pickup
6,500 lb. GVW	7,000 lb GVW	13,500 lb.

Campers and other recreational vehicles are included in the weight of the pickup. Slide-in type campers will be assessed at a standard weight. If you tow a variety of trailers, GVW fees are figured for only the heaviest trailer you pull. If you license your Suburban as a truck, these changes apply as well. Passenger vehicles (including Suburbans with more than two seats) are not affected by these changes.

The Bottom Line

What this means to your pocketbook is that GVW fees will go up slightly for some individuals and down slightly for others. Fees on these vehicles range from $7.50 to $21—the higher amount for pickups with heavier trailer. Fees are calculated in 2,000 pound increments.

Your renewal month will be the same as last year. You will not receive a notice about these changes, so when you register your pickup with the county Treasurer's office, be sure to bring the registration for all of your trailers as well. For more information, write to Motor Carrier Services Division, PO Box 4639, Helena, MT 59604-4639.

This message from
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